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# U.S., Soviets tangling over 'star wars'

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LONDON — Soviet Politburo second-in-command Mikhail Gorbachev continued to stress to opposition British politicians yesterday that, if the United States goes ahead with its plans to develop space weapons systems, all bets are off for negotiations on a wide range of nuclear arms controls.

"He made it very clear that in 1972 the ABM [Anti-Ballistic Missile] treaty and the SALT I treaty [limiting offensive nuclear weapons] were signed as an interconnection — he used this word several times — and this interconnection will be used again in the forthcoming talks," said Social Democratic Party leader David Owen after talking with Mr. Gorbachev for 75 minutes yesterday.

"They are making it clear that progress in arms control has to be made overall, that an advance by one side [the United States] cannot be made at the expense of another."

Mr. Gorbachev, on the fifth day of a visit to Britain which has been dominated by talk about East-West relations and arms control, had a more sympathetic audience in opposition leaders — Mr. Owen, Liberal leader David Steel and Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock — than he did with Conservative Party leaders over the previous few days.

Still, he did not use the opportunity to press further a hint by one of his entourage a day earlier that the Soviet Union might specifically pull out of arms talks, or concentrate on space weapons of their own, if the United States goes ahead with planned anti-satellite tests in March.

The suggestion that "complexities will develop" if the ASAT tests proceed was made by Yevgeny P. Velikhov, a Soviet space expert, before Parliament's foreign affairs committee Tuesday.

But Mr. Owen, the SDP leader, told The Washington Times that in his meeting with Mr. Gorbachev yesterday, the Soviet heir-apparent to President Konstantin Chernenko "wouldn't lock himself into that one — and if he had, I would have told him that was stupid."

Nevertheless, both Mr. Owen and Mr. Kinnock stressed that they supported Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's apparent concern about American plans to "launch a new spiral in the arms race," as Mr. Kinnock put it.

"Mr. Gorbachev emphasized that they did not have any preconditions, that they wanted to consider the package as a whole," said Mr. Kinnock after lunching with the Soviet leader yesterday. "And they do not, of course, make any categorical divisions or difference between ballistic missiles or strategic or intermediate or 'star wars'."

"They want the whole area considered, and the strong impression made to us — as it was in the Kremlin a few weeks ago — is that whilst they regard the question of the militarization of space to be of very great and indeed paramount importance, as President Chernenko said, that doesn't mean other matters are precluded," Mr. Kinnock said.

Whatever the precise wording of Mr. Gorbachev's comments on arms control, it is clear that in the more fundamental area of public relations his visit to London has been a success.

The appearance of his wife, Raina, attractive and fashionable in contrast to the plain image of such past Soviet officials' wives as Mrs. Nikita Khrushchev and Mrs. Leonid Brezhnev, has wowed the London tabloids, which have given her double-page treatment and prompted the Daily Mail to dub her the "Gucci comrade."

On her own initiative, she has gone shopping in one of the best-known examples of British capitalism, the Marks and Spencer clothing store in Oxford Street, jammed with pre-Christmas shoppers.

Considering that even some Soviet journalists covering the trip barely knew if Mr. Gorbachev was married, the sustained public appearance of his wife in London has impressed everyone with her verve and Westernization. And her 53-year-old husband has matched her in style.

"I can get on with a fellow like that because he is direct and he accepts other people being direct," said Mr. Kinnock. "He's the kind of personality that will be very forceful, and if they can continue that forcefulness, will do so. When an equal forcefulness comes from the other side, then a businesslike, even friendly, relationship can be established."

But yesterday, the Gorbachevs failed to join the rest of the Soviet delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union at a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery.

Although Soviet officials said Mr. Gorbachev was not scheduled to be at the ceremony and that he had already been to other communist shrines in London, officials were reportedly surprised at his absence. He was said to have gone instead on a private visit to the Tower of London, but there was speculation that Mr. Gorbachev was concerned that he and his wife were attracting too much personal publicity.

Mr. Gorbachev's coolness toward the press appears to be matched by his testiness on human-rights conditions in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Gorbachev essentially told a Conservative member of Parliament to mind his own business when the subject of human rights was raised on Tuesday, but yesterday he did respond to several such questions from Mr. Owen.

The responses were relatively standard, but Mr. Owen said they had a "spirited," "quite robust" exchange, particularly about allowing Soviet citizens to emigrate.